

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (new): A storage system comprising:

a plurality of clusters; and

a communication path which connects each of the clusters,

wherein each cluster comprises:

a disk controller, and

a plurality of disk drives,

wherein the disk controller of each cluster comprises:

a disk interface which connects to the disk drives of the cluster,

a cache memory, and

a control memory,

wherein, when a first disk controller of a first cluster receives from the host computer a write request which requests updating data for updating data stored in disk drives of a second disk controller of a second cluster, the first disk controller checks whether the updating data is stored in the cache memory of the second disk controller, and if the updating data is not stored in the cache memory of the second disk controller, the first disk controller sends the write request to the second disk controller via the communication path, and

wherein the second disk controller, in response to the write request from the first disk controller, reads the updating data from the disk drives of the second disk controller to the cache memory of the second disk controller via the disk interface of the second disk controller and updates the data based on the write request.

20. (new): A storage system according to claim 19, wherein when the cache memory of the second disk controller has write request data, the first disk controller requests the second disk controller to update data stored in the cache memory of the second disk controller.

21. (new): A storage system according to claim 20, wherein each control memory of the clusters stores a cache directory to identify the disk controller having a disk drive which stores data stored in cache memory.

22. (new): A storage system according to claim 21, wherein said first disk controller receives a completed report of data for updating from said second disk controller, and thereafter sends the completed report to said host computer.

23. (new): A storage system according to claim 22, wherein said second disk controller inhibits access to the data for updating which is the object of said write request until said first disk controller sends the completed report to the host computer.
